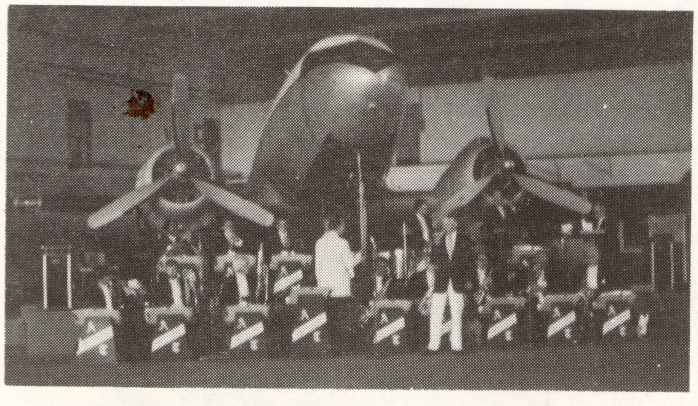
YANKEE AIR FORCE NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 852
WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
YPSILANTI, MI. 48197

Volume 1 | August, 1982 | Issue 8

1940'S DINNER DANCE THIS SATURDAY

The Yankee Air Force is holding a 1940's style Dinner Dance at the hangar this Saturday, August 14, at 7:30 p.m. We've hired the same band we had at the Air Show, "Al Townsend and the Ambassadors", a 1940's 17 piece big band. They'll be set up under ERIMs C-47 again and we'll have many other World War II aircraft on display as well as some 1940's cars. Some members are planning on dressing in 1940's clothes or uniforms. Otherwise the dress will be dresses for ladies, and dress slacks for men. The dance is open to the public. All members should try to sell tickets and bring friends and family to the dance. This is the first Yankee Air Force social event as well as a fund raiser for the B-24. The cost is $15 per person which covers dinner, beer, and set ups for mixed drinks (please bring your own liquor if you wish to have mixed drinks), and the band. The dinner is a catered buffet. Please support this, our first big fund raiser and social event, and meet your fellow YAF members. The band is great!! Call Cindy Smith, 487-5965, if you can sell any tickets or need tickets yourself.



CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED

(1) Program Committee (program for meetings)
(2) Fund Raising Committee (very critical)
(3) September Fly-In Breakfast

Call Dennis Norton to volunteer.

CLEVELAND AIR SHOW

We need volunteers to work the Cleveland Air Show. The YAF trailer will be going and we need someone to tow it down. The show is September 4-6, 1982, at Burke Lakefront and we need a big turnout of members. Cleveland would be a good area for a Yankee Air Force chapter. Let's show them who we are. Call Greg Smith if you have a plane to put in the show or if you can work the booth. Call now - 487-5965.

FLINT AIR SHOW

The Flint Air Show is September 4-6, 1982, at Bishop Airport. The Yankee Air Force is providing and coordinating the warbird and biplane fly-bys for the show. In return, we get space in the program and a membership booth. We need 10 volunteers to help each day with the booth. Please call Dave Pettyes at 659-1686 to volunteer. This is a close show and we'd like to have a good turnout of members attend the show. Wear your YAF hat and shirt. Do some PR.

MUSEUM

The History and Museum Committee is requesting donations of historical materials. Any of the following items may be donated: photographs, books, manuals, uniforms, aircraft parts, paintings, drawings, aircraft radios, any type of B-24 or Willow Run memorabilia or anything else you feel would be of interest. You will be credited in the museum. Remember also that all donations are tax deductible. Also needed are display cases, book shelves and lighting fixtures. Tax deductible donations of money or materials to begin renovation of the museum area are being solicited. If you or any person or business you know would be interested in helping sponsor or completely sponsoring a room or time period in the museum, please let Phil Lundy know - 644-9171. We'd like to open the museum in the spring.

NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Many members have requested back issues of the newsletter. We're going to order copies of all back issues (including the two original single page newsletters from November and December, 1981) in the fall. Because of the cost involved in re-running them, the charge will be 25¢ per copy. All back issues will be available starting in September or October.

F-84 RESTORATION

The RF84K is now in the YAF hangar. The moving job turned out to be much tougher than we thought. Ron Babushka's crew worked from early morning to 8 p.m. on July 24. About 6 hours were used just to move the aircraft out to a location where it could be worked on. It took another 2 hours to remove the wings & load everything on the truck & trailers. It took another hour to get the truck out of the park because of the narrow roads & the trees. An hour to the hangar & unloading & the job was done. A well deserved thanks goes to everyone who worked on the project & everyone who donated the use of the equipment.

The restoration process will be a lengthy one. Mike Willman, YAF #097, is the "RF84 Squadron" commander & is organizing the restoration crew. A series of meetings will be held to research & plan the restoration. We need A & P's to head up the work crews & guide the project. Anyone interested in joining the "RF-84K Squadron" & working on our first restoration project please sign up at the hangar or by calling Mike Willman at 661-0440. Anyone having contacts which might help in locating manuals or parts for the aircraft please let Mike know immediately. The most obvious needs are landing gear, canopy, seat & cockpit equipment.

We want to have an "RF-84 Squadron" patch. Anyone interested in designing a patch please turn in your entry to the Board of Directors by the September Board meeting.

FOLDING CHAIRS

We still need 300 folding chairs. Until we get them, please bring a chair to the meetings.

SEPTEMBER 26 BREAKFAST FLY-IN

A pancake breakfast fly-in will be held at the YAF hangar on September 26. This will be similar to our other open house with pancakes served, aircraft on display & movies shown. A committee is forming to organize & run it. The first meeting is Thursday, August 19 at 7:30 in the hangar. All interested members please attend.

YAF RECRUITING

Anyone attending any kind of air show, dawn patrol, or fly-in, please wear YAF shirt, hat, or patch. Applications & brochures are available from Harry Terpstra to pass out. Everyone please recruit wherever you go.

HANGAR KEYS

New locks are being put on the hangar. Security must be kept tight so the keys will be limited to people who must have them. All keys are numbered & assigned to a specific person. If you have a key assigned to you do not let anyone else use it. If you do not have a key please don't ask to borrow one. Under no circumstances may keys be reproduced or given to unauthorized people. When your position no longer requires a key it must be returned immediately so it can be accounted for & reassigned. Only in this way can we keep track of the keys.

YAF Board of Directors

PHOTO COMMITTEE

The YAF Photo Committee has been in existance for the past several months & is responsible for most of the photographs appearing in the newsletter. We now have over 500 pictures & slides of YAF activities in our files. We need your help! We need any photographic or darkroom equipment that you can donate. Our first objective is to acquire a kodak carousel projector & screen for our presentations. We are also looking for 16mm movie equipment. We also would appreciate donations of any photographs (or negatives) taken at any YAF function. If you can help us, contact Jim Walter, 481-0320.

Jim Walter, YAF #324
Photo Committee Chairperson

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

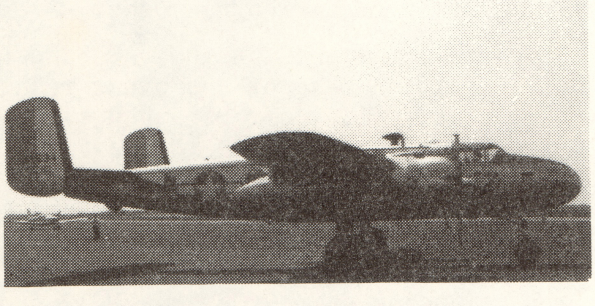
A reorganized Fund Raising Committee is forming. This is a vital part of the Yankee Air Force. Without funds we have no aircraft. Please volunteer your ideas & help at the first meeting, Wednesday, August 18 at 7:00 at the hangar.

ELECTIONS

YAF elections are coming up in October. Anyone interested in running for an office of Board of Directors position must submit a resume by the September general meeting. If you wish to run you must be able to attend most Board & general membership meetings & any committee meetings you are designated to oversee. Please consider running only if you can dedicate this amount of time for two years.

B-25 D GALLANT WARRIOR - GLENN LAMONT, YAF #039

The B-25 was one of the most effective medium bombers of World War II, with an airframe that readily lent itself to a multitude of modifications designed to tailor it to specific tactical functions. B-25s were used as bombers both at high & medium altitudes, as well as "on the deck" using the very effective "skip-bombing" technique against enemy shipping. Some B-25s such as the one you see here, were converted to "gunships" which performed admirably in low altitude ground support actions & against enemy transport. The "Gallant Warrior" mounted eight 50 caliber machine guns in the nose as well as four blister guns below the cockpit. With 12 machine guns firing at once, a burst in the right spot could sink a destroyer or render a locomotive completely useless. This ship also carried two 50 caliber guns in the top turret & one in each waist window for a total of 16 guns. Some B-25s even mounted a 75mm cannon in the nose, the firing of which seemed to stop the airplane in mid-air. Although serving with distinction in all theaters of the war & with the air arms of all the Allied Nations, the B-25 is best remembered for the famous carrier-launched "Doolittle Raid" against Japan on April 18, 1942. Although causing little real damage, the raid caused the Japanese to change their strategy, eventually resulting in the battle of Midway, which was the turning point in the war for the Allies. The "Gallant Warrior" was built in April, 1943, & first saw combat in Europe in December of 1943. Serving first with the U.S.A.A.F. & later with the R.C.A.F., the aircraft was eventually purchased in Canada by Glenn H. Lamont. The aircraft required approximately 7 years to restore to an airworthy condition. To the best of our knowledge, this B-25 D model is the oldest flying B-25.



YAF OFFICE

We need some volunteers to man the YAF office in the hangar between 12 and 4, Monday thru Saturday. This would allow visitors to come in and the phone to be answered. Office work such as mailings could also be done. Anyone with an interest in doing this one or more days a week please call Dennis Norton.

B-25 SPECIFICATIONS

Top Speed: 300 MPH
Ceiling: 25,000 feet
Bomb Load: 4,000 pounds
Armament: 13 to 16 50 caliber machine guns
Crew: 5 or 6 depending on the mission
Range: 1,200 miles, 1,800 miles with long range tanks installed
Engines: Wright R-2600, 14 cylinder radials of 1,700 HP each
Fuel Consumption: 130 gallons of 100 octane per hour at 52% power

Glenn H. Lamont is a man dedicated to aviation, especially to the preservation of the airplanes that helped to preserve our freedom during World War II. He has an extensive background in commercial aviation, as well as that gained as a USAF C-46 pilot during the years following World War II. In addition to the "Gallant Warrior," Glenn owns another B-25, this one a "J" model, appropriately named the "Guardian of Freedom." The bombers are based at Lamont Airport, a 5,200 foot grass strip near Deckerville in the thumb of Michigan. His crew is composed of pilots & friends from the area. Glenn is a founding member in the Yankee Air Force, a member of the Confederate Air Force, Warbirds of America, the Canadian Warplane Heritage and a former Captain in the USAF.

YAF AIRCRAFT REPORTS

This page starts a new series in the newsletter. You've seen the many beautifully restored aircraft in our displays & shows. Each month we'll try to include an article & a picture of one of the historic aircraft owned by YAF members. In coming months you'll see reports on the following aircraft all owned by YAF members: T-6, AD4 Skyraider, Curtis Falcon, Bucker Jungmann, Stampe, Stearman, & others. Any YAF member who owns a military or historic aircraft is encouraged to submit a black & white photo & article set up similar to the above article. The articles will be run in the order in which they are received with the initial emphasis on military type aircraft.

DINNER DANCE SET UP

We need lots of people to come out to the hangar on Saturday, August 14 at noon to set up for the Dance. The floor must be swept, tables & chairs set up, ropes moved, displays set up, etc. Please call me if you have questions or can help.

Cindy Smith - 487-5965

MOSQUITO CONTROL AT HANGAR

If anyone has any equipment to spray with or other ideas for mosquito control, we need you on Saturday before the Dance. The mosquitos are terrible. Please help!! Call Dennis Norton.

YAF TRIPS PLANNED

Plans are being formulated for a bus trip to the Air Force museum in Dayton & Selfridge military museum in Mt. Clemens. Watch for further details.

HANGAR TALK

The 1982 World Aerobatic Championship will be held this month from August 8 until the 22nd. It will be the 11th W.A.C. since 1960. This time it will be held at Spitzerberg, Austria near Vienna. There will be 9 American pilots, led by Leo Laudenslager (current world champion), Betty Stewart (current world champion), and Kermit Weeks (current Hilton Masters Champion). The rest of the team consists of Henry Haigh from Howell, Michigan, Jim Roberts, Patti Nelson, Bill Witt, Linda Myers, & Brigitte de Saint Phalle.

At the Willow Run Air Show most of the YAF members saw Leo perform with a modified Stephens Akro. He calls his plane Lasher 200.

On July 18th, 17 members got together & flew to Mackinaw Island. They had a great time horseback riding & sightseeing. They hope to make it an annual event with more members & planes.

Y.A.F. reels in its first warbird, an RF-84-K Thunderflash. It was a tough job taking off the wings to lighten the load. Even then the crane just barely lifted it onto a flat bed trailer. They started about 10:00 a.m. & had it in our hangar at 8:00 p.m. Special thanks to Lee Koepke for the use of his crane and Dean LaLonde for the use of his truck. Also Chuck Wooliver, Dave Hogarth, Herb Minard, Ken Mullins, Dave Slough, Larry Haase, Dave Benard, Al Casby, Ron Babuska, John Haase, Grant Martin, Scott Vetter, Chris & Tim Dobiese, & Dennis Norton.

Joe Hass showed up at the membership meeting with his Cherokee Archer II. Hope to see more planes park by our hangar next month.

See you at the Dinner Dance this week. Till next month,

Frank Modlinski, YAF #238

CONTACTS WE NEED

The YAF needs contacts in the following areas. If you have or know someone who has contacts in any of these areas call Dennis Norton or Phil Lundy.

India	U.S. State Department
Pakistan	Ford Board of Directors
Australia	Dupont Paint Co.
Honduras	U.S. Embassy in India
Brazil	U.S. Embassy in Australia
Denmark	Australian Consulate
New Guinea	National Air & Space Museum
Indian Consulate	Smithsonian Silverhill Fac.
Spain	Davis Monthan Air Base

CAF HARLINGEN TRIP CANCELLED

We're sorry to say that not enough people signed up for the trip to the CAF Air Show in October. Those who did sign up please pick up your deposit from Terry Emery.

YAF CALENDAR

8/14 - YAF Dinner/1940s Big Band Dance at YAF hangar
8/18 - Fund Raising Committee meeting - 7:00 - hangar
8/18 - Board Meeting (& Advisory Council) - 7:30 - YAF hangar
8/19 - September Fly-In Committee meeting - 7:30 - hangar
8/21 - Air Show & Fly-In, Chippewa County Airport (formerly Kinchloe AFB)
8/22 - Livingston County Fly-In, Howell, Mich.
8/21 & 8/22 - The Gathering of Warbirds, Madera, California
8/25 - YAF Photo Group meeting, 6:30, YAF hangar
8/29 - Dawn Patrol & Fly-In, Grosse Ile, Mich.
9/1 - Deadline for election resumes
9/1 - YAF General Membership meeting, 7:30, YAF hangar
9/1 - Newsletter deadline
9/4 - 9/6 - Air Show, Bishop Airport, Flint, Mich. (YAF)
9/4 - 9/6 - Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio (YAF)
9/8 - Board meeting agenda deadline
9/9 - 9/12 - 4th Annual Commemorative Michigan Air Tour
9/15 - YAF Board meeting (& Advisory Council), 7:30, YAF hangar
9/17 - 9/19 - 19th National Championship Air Races, Reno, Nevada
9/26 - Fly-In pancake breakfast, Willow Run Airport, YAF hangar (YAF)

Note: (YAF) above indicates YAF participation

Coming Events

October 7-10 - CAF Air Show, Harlingen, Texas
October 16 - Int. Pl. Mod. Soc. Conv., Ramada Inn, Detroit Metro Airport
October - Int. Cessna 120/140 Assoc. Annual Conv. & Fly-In, Calloway Gardens, Georgia
Oct/Nov - bus trip to Selfridge & base & mus em
Oct/Nov - bus trip to Air Force museum

Note: There is a mail box in the YAF hangar front office. If you hear of any event related to military or classic aircraft please get the details & put it in my slot in the mail box.

Stan Reich, YAF #055, 427-8014

P38 HUNT

YAF member Russ Rajani is looking for help in locating & salvaging some P-38s & a B-17 from the Greenland Icecap. These aircraft ran out of fuel & bellied in onto soft snow in 1942. They are still there buried in the snow & Russ has permission from the Danish government to salvage them. He is looking for help & financial support. Anyone interested please call him at 404-461-8900 or write Pursuits Unlimited, Inc., P. O. Box 52, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214. We may have Russ present a program on this in the fall if time permits. Further information is posted on the hangar bulletin board.

RETAIL SALES

At the July membership meeting a request was made for women's hats. The request has been fulfilled & they are now in stock. The colors available are light blue or lemon yellow. They are available with the YAF patch or the B-24 on the front. Cost is $10 each. These are not on our present order forms so it will be necessary to make a notation on the order forms if you wish to order by mail.

New items available soon will be B-24 tie tacks (lapel pins), belt buckles, & YAF window stickers for the inside of your car window. If you have an idea or a request please forward this information to me & every effort will be made to see it through.

We (officially) have a retail sales office at the hangar. Presently, YAF items can be purchased on membership meeting nights & also the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the evening. We would like to have someone available at the hangar on Saturday & Sunday from 12-5 to sell YAF products. Anyone interested in helping out in this area, please contact Terry Emery, 422-6278, after 4 p.m.

Keeping in mind that retail sales is one of our most important income producing areas for our club we need your help at the air shows & other outings that we attend. The Cleveland & Flint Air Shows are scheduled for Labor Day weekend. We will have a booth at these shows for retail sales & memberships. If you are interested in attending one of these air shows please contact me as soon as possible. So come on out & see our new office & sign up to help out on retail sales on the weekends & at the air shows. Thanks again for your continued support.

Terry Emery, YAF #352

HANGAR RESTORATION

We need someone knowledgeable in heating systems to coordinate the heating plant installation & maintenance. Our objectives are to heat the meeting room, lavatories, & some offices. If you can help, please call Al Bittner (home-699-9215, work-322-2076).

We have a fire marshall in the person of Bill Walter, #618, phone 941-4073 (after 5 p.m.). Anyone interested in hangar & ramp fire protection, please contact him.

The roof repair project is under the direction of Matt Martin (work-277-6876, home-323-4878). We need manpower to complete this project before winter. Please call Matt to volunteer your time.

Jim Shephard is in charge of hangar door repairs (replace weatherstriping, etc.), home-697-4611, work-525-8000, extension 305.

The above projects are of the most urgen priorities & need to be completed before winter. Also of primary concern is the hangar floor. Dave Cunningham is in charge of cleaning & sealing the floor (home-981-5908, work-322-0250).

Al Bittner, YAF #054

HANGAR NEEDS

We need to have donated, new or used, the following items for the hangar restoration. Check your unused items around the house, hardware stores, lumber yards, businesses, closing plants, etc. Call Al Bittner or Frank Modlinski. Remember, all donated items are tax deductible. Many of these things have been listed a long time. Please work on them.

HAND TOOLS

hammers*
saw**
pliers*
wire cutters*
pipewrenches*
ratchet set
paint brushes**
paint rollers**
level
propane torch
paint scrapers**
crescent wrenches

SUPPLIES

floor wax
windex
rags*
cleaning soaps*
sandpaper**
nails**
oil
screws**
caulk
fertilizer
insulation

MISCELLANEOUS

rope
locks**
water meter
padlocks**
couch
easy chairs
bathroom mirror
scaffolding
burgular alarm
linoleum tile*
rolls of polyethelyne

ELECTRIC TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

sabre saw & blades
extension cords*
florescent light fixtures
lamps
fuses
stove
table saw*
romex 12/2-G and 14/2-G
microwave oven

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

filing cabinets**
large manila envelopes
bookshelves
tables
copy machine
telephone recorder
file folders

MISC. EQUIPMENT

brooms**
mops*
buckets*
shovels*
air compressor**
garden rakes
spray paint gun
garden hoses
300 folding chairs**
self brackets**
folding tables
color TV
twin beech tow bar
staplers
deep freezer
scissors
storage shelving

*Immediate needs
**Most immediate needs!

HANGAR RULES

You may have noticed lately that areas of the hangar are roped off. Do not go inside these ropes unless you have business being there. The aircraft in the hangar are paying rent & must be secure. Only YAF members are allowed beyond the first barrier rope in the hangar. Only aircraft owners are allowed inside the aircraft display ropes. Only RF-84-K Squadron restoration workers are allowed inside the ropes around that aircraft. Under no circumstances is smoking allowed anywhere in the building.

YAF MEMBERSHIPS

Anyone who joins the Yankee Air Force before September 24, 1982, will become a charter member. This is a tremendous selling point for soliciting new members. Everyone try to bring in new people to join the YAF. We must continue growing.

Charter membership - $25.00 annual

Charter membership - spouse - $10.00 annual

Charter Life membership (individual) $500.00 one time

Conditional Life membership - $12.50/month for 48 months ($600.00) or $25.00/month for 24 months ($600.00)

Charter Corporate membership - $500.00 minimum (annual)

YAF AREA REPRESENTATIVES

In our efforts to form other divisions of the Yankee Air Force across the country, area representatives are being appointed. These people have volunteered to be YAF contacts and begin working on the formation of chapters in these areas. Anyone living in these areas should contact the area representative and offer to help. Hopefully local meetings can be set up and the YAF idea will catch on as rapidly as it has at the Headquarters Division at Willow Run. If anyone wishes to be an area representative, please contact Dennis Norton.

Flint, Mid Michigan
David Pettyes YAF #244
8505 Apple Blossom Lane
Flushing, MI 48433 313-659-1686

New Jersey
Lee Herron YAF #464
Caldwell Essex County Airport
R 5 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07006
201-736-9092 or 201-575-9621

Boston, Massachusetts
Rusty Restuccia YAF #345
100 Willard Street
Quincy, MA 02168 617-479-4678

HANGAR RENTAL

Space is available in the YAF hangar for any historic aircraft at least 30 years old or any military aircraft regardless of age. Space is also available for restoration projects. We want to have many aircraft on public display in the hangar as the beginning of our museum. If you would like to fly with the YAF and have your aircraft on public display in the YAF hangar or know anyone who would, please call Dennis Norton or Greg Smith. We also have individual maintenance rooms available.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

The YAF needs you, your ideas, and your time. Come to the meetings, work parties, open houses, find new members, historic aircraft or donations. You are the YAF.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Norton, President - 482-5548
Greg Smith, Vice-President - 487-5965
Patti Meyer, Treasurer - 439-7976
Cindy Smith, Secretary - 487-5965
Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
George Taylor - 434-4753
Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Tom Wilkins - 525-2616
Phil Lundy - 664-9171

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

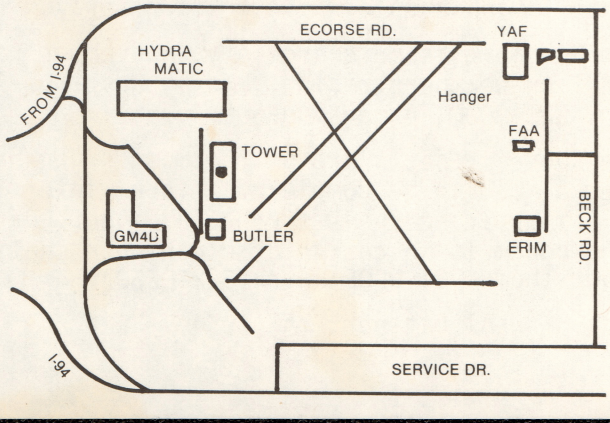
Membership - Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Finance - Patti Meyer - 439-7976
Aircraft Procurement - Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
Retail Sales - Terry Emery - 422-6278
Publicity - George Taylor - 434-4753
Program -
Hangar - Al Bittner - 699-9215
Pilot Certification - Mike LaPine
Museum/History - Phil Lundy - 644-9171
Hospitality - Marie Fritz - 522-3395

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar, Willow Run Airport. Please mark these days on the calendar. The strength of the YAF lies solely in the participation of its membership. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and end between 9:30 and 10:00 depending on the program. Many committees hold short meetings; officers, Board members and committee chairpersons are available for discussions; and YAF hats, t-shirts, patches, and video tapes can be purchased. Always try to bring new members to the meeting where they can join.

Attend the membership meetings, find out what we're doing, how you can help, and enjoy some great programs.

BOARD MEETINGS - ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar on Beck Road. Meetings are open to anyone. Board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Advisory Council meets in conjunction with the Board of Directors, same time, same place. Please volunteer one or more times to meet with the Board on this Council and give your ideas.